



Repeater: NØDX 145.190 MHz (Input 144.590 / Tone 192.8 Hz)



Home

Meetings

Members

Officers

Newsletter

E. Iowa DX Bulletin

Buy-Sell-Trade

DXCC Card Checking

About EIDXA

History

Constitution & Bylaws

DX Resources

The Eastern Iowa DX Bulletin

Number 250, November 29, 2024

Craig Fastenow, KØCF, Editor

This bulletin is a compilation of **currently active** DX operations (or those that will become active within the current week) from recent issues of the three DX bulletins listed below and other sources. Credit for the source is given at the end of each article.

Articles are ordered by the entity's callsign prefix from the *ARRL DXCC Entities List*. Callsigns used are in **bold** with dates of operation highlighted in **red**. Clickable links are provided for QSL and other information wherever possible. Note that articles may be edited for grammar, language, style and accuracy and will remain in *The Bulletin* while active; articles that are announcements of ongoing operations, or that have no specified end date, will be removed after three weeks.

Also included is a [Propagation](#) section, updated daily; and a [Contest Calendar](#) of upcoming popular contests.

DX News items are courtesy of:

The ARRL DX Bulletin

The bulletin is available at <http://www.arrl.org>

425 DX News, A.R.I. DX Bulletin (425DXN)

Edited by Mauro Pregliasco, I1JQJ & Valeria Pregliasco, IK1ADH

425 DX News Home Page: <https://www.425dxn.org/>

425 DX News Google Group: <https://groups.google.com/g/425eng>

DX Newsletter (DXNL)

Edited by Andreas Salder, DK5ON

A weekly service of DARC Committee "DX", <http://www.darcdxhf.de>

Ohio-Penn DX Bulletin (OPDX)

Edited by Tedd Mirgliotta, KB8NW. Although OPDX is no longer published as a weekly bulletin, Tedd still sends DX news emails.

We will occasionally publish some of them.

Propagation data is from:

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's

[Space Weather Prediction Center](#)

Dr. Tony Phillips' SpaceWeather.com, used by permission

Contest data courtesy of the [WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#)



Solar-Terrestrial Data

30 Nov 2024 1811 GMT
 SFI: 220 SN: 101
 A-Index: 8
 K-Index: 1
 X-Ray: C2.0
 304A: 162.1 @ SEM
 Ptn Flx: 19
 Elc Flx: 3890
 Aurora: 1/n=1.99
 Mag (Bz): 1.1
 Solar Wind: 404.3
 Geomag Field VR QUIET
 Sig Noise Lvl S0-S1
 Current Solar Image



<http://www.nonbh.com>
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DX News

3D2, FIJI. Bob, W7Yaq and Al, K7AR will, they will stop in Nadi (OC-016), Fiji on their return from Wallis Island, and will be active as **3D2NB** from **November 30th to December 2nd**. QSL via LoTW, [ClubLog's OQRS](#), or via [W7Yaq](#).

-[425DXN # 1747 October 26, 2024] (1129-1206)

3D2, FIJI. Theo, PA3CBH will be active as **3D2TP** from Viti Levu (OC-016) **until December 12th**. He will operate QRP on SSB and QRS CW. QSL via [PA3CBH](#).

-[425DXN # 1748 November 2, 2024] (1108-1213)

3D2/R, ROTUMA I. An international team (W6IZT, W2FQ, K4NHW KD9LSV, MØSDV, LY7J) is leading a larger group of young remote operators (43 ops, including 4 YLs) in a DXpedition to Rotuma (OC-060). QRV **until December 4th** as **3D2Y** with RIB (Radio In a Box) equipment on 160-6m, including 60m, on CW, SSB, FT8. In addition, they will be taking part in the CQ WW CW Contest (November 23rd-24th) using another callsign, yet to be determined. For more information see:

<https://rotuma2024.com/>. QSL via [MØOXO's OQRS](#).

-[DXNL # 2432 November 13, 2024] (1115-1206)

4U/UN, UNITED NATIONS HQ. On the building that hosts **4U1UN** in New York, an antenna for 80 and 160m has been installed recently for members' use. The location in Manhattan suffers from constant (S5-S7) QRN though.

-[DXNL # 2433 November 20, 2024] (1122-1213)

5R, MADAGASCAR. Eric, F6ICX is active again as **5R8IC** from Sainte-Marie Island (AF-090), Madagascar **until the end of the year**. He will operate mainly CW on 40-10 meters; during the last two weeks of December he will also be QRV on the QO-100 satellite. QSL via LoTW, [ClubLog's OQRS](#), or via [F6ICX](#).

-[425DXN # 1742 September 21, 2024] (0927-0103)

8R, GUYANA. Heye, DJ9RR, is currently active as **8R1/AG6UT** on 40-10m (CW, FT8). The duration of his stay is presently unknown. QSL via [DJ9RR](#).

-[DXNL # 2434 November 27, 2024] (1129-1213)

9L, SIERRA LEONE. The Radio Club de Provins (F6KOP) will be active as **9L5A** from Sierra Leone from **November 27th to December 8th**. Plans are for a large team (F1DHX, F1ULQ, F2DX, F4AZF, F4FET, F4HAU, F4HHL, F4HRG, F5AGB, F5NTZ, F8AAN, F8EFU, F8GGV/YU3FX, HB9GWJ and ON7RN) to operate CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8 (MSHV) on 160-6 meters with six stations, as well as via QO-100 with a dedicated station, with a focus on "human modes" (CW and SSB). More information can be found on <https://9l5a.wordpress.com>; bookmark the expedition's Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/9L5A.DXpedition> for updates. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#) (preferred), LoTW, or via [F5GSJ](#).

-[425DXN # 1748 November 2, 2024] (1122-1213)

9V, SINGAPORE. Orion, OE3OGC, will be active during his spare time as **9V1CF** from **November 27th to December 10th** on 40-10m (SSB, FT8). He also plans to activate Bukit Timah SOTA (9V/SG-001) and the Coney Island National Park (SG-0013). QSL via [OE3OGC](#), or his OQRS.

-[DXNL # 2434 November 27, 2024] (1129-1213)

A3, TONGA. Stan, LZ1GC and Ted LZ5QZ will be active as **A35GC** from Nuku'alofa (OC-049), Tonga on **November 25th to December 6th**. They will operate CW, SSB, FT4, FT8 and RTTY on 160-6 meters with three stations and a focus on 160, 80 and 60m. More information will be available on <https://www.c21gc.com/>. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#) (preferred), LoTW, or via [LZ1GC](#).

-[425DXN # 1737 August 17, 2024] (1122-1206)

A6, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES. Special callsign **A6ØND** is for the Emirates Amateur Radio Society to celebrate UAE National Day (**December 2nd**). Also expected to take part in the celebrations is the Bahrain Amateur Radio Society as **A91UAE** (**November 26th - December 2nd**), and possibly the Saudi Amateur Radio Society as **HZ1UAE**, the Kuwait Amateur Radio Society as **9K9UAE**, and the Royal Omani Amateur Radio Society as **A43UAE**. QSL A6ØND via [EA7ETR](#).

-[425DXN # 1751 November 23, 2024] (1122-1206)

A9, BAHRAIN. Celebrating the Kingdom of Bahrain's National Day, the Bahrain Amateur Radio Society will be active as **A91ND** on **December 1st-16th**. Also taking part in the celebrations will be the Emirates Amateur Radio Society as **A6ØBHR** on **December 11th-16th** (individual operators may append a serial number to the special callsign), and possibly the Saudi Amateur Radio Society as **HZ1BHR**, the Kuwait Amateur Radio Society as **9K9BHR**, and the Royal Omani Amateur Radio Society as **A43BHR**. QSL A91ND via [EC6DX](#).

-[425DXN # 1752 November 30, 2024] (1129-1220)

CE9, ANTARCTICA. Oleg, ZS1ANF is QRV as **ZS7ANF** from Wolf's Fang Runway, Queen Maud Land (AN-016) **until late February 2025**. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters using mainly CW. QSL via [DL5EBE](#), [RK1PWA](#), or LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 43 November 14, 2024] (1115-1206)

CN, MOROCCO. Ralf, DB4REB will be active as **CN2REB** while vacationing in Morocco from **November 30th to January 30, 2025**. He plans to operate CW, FT8 and SSB on various bands from Agadir and some POTA sites along the coast. See <https://www.qrz.com/db/CN2REB> for updates. QSL via eQSL, or [DB4REB](#).

-[425DXN # 1751 November 23, 2024] (1129-0131)

CO, CUBA. Team T46W will be active from Cayo Santa Maria (NA-204, WWL FL02lp) on **December 1st-10th**. Eight operators (CO6OU, CO6RK, CO6SDY, CO6VV, CO6XDX, CO6XX, CM6EZ and CL6AX) will be QRV on 160-6 meters "multimode". QSL via LoTW.

-[425DXN # 1751 November 23, 2024] (1129-1213)

DL, GERMANY. Special callsign **DM7ØDXMB** will be activated by DARC Team SES to mark the 70th anniversary of DARC's DX Newsletter DXMB (DX-Mitteilungsblatt) from **November 1st to December 13**. All QSOs will be confirmed automatically via the bureau; direct cards via [DL2VFR](#).

-[425DXN # 1748 November 2, 2024] (1101-1213)

DXCC TOP TWENTY. Here are the top 20 entities on ClubLog's "DXCC Most Wanted" list as of November 29, 2024:

1. P5	DPRK (North Korea)	11. ZS8	Prince Edward & Marion Islands
2. BS7H	Scarborough Reef	12. KH4	Midway Island
3. CEØX	San Felix Islands	13. VKØM	Macquarie Island
4. BV9P	Pratas Island	14. PYØS	Saint Peter And Paul Rocks
5. KH7K	Kure Island	15. KP5	Desecheo Island
6. KH3	Johnston Island	16. VPØS	South Sandwich Islands
7. 3Y/P	Peter 1 Island	17. ZL9	New Zealand Subantarctic Islands
8. FT5/X	Kerguelen Island	18. FK/C	Chesterfield Islands
9. YVØ	Aves Island	19. VKØH	Heard Island
10. 3Y/B	Bouvet Island	20. FT/T	Tromelin Island

For the complete list, see <https://clublog.org/mostwanted.php>

-[KØCF November 29, 2024] (1129-1220)

FR, REUNION I. Jean-Marie, F4JCF, signs **FR/F4JCF** from **November 24th to December 15th**.

-[DXNL # 2433 November 20, 2024] (1122-1213)

FS, ST. MARTIN. K9EL, K9NU, W9AP and W9MR will again be active as **TO9W** from **November 30th to December 13th**. They will operate CW, SSB, FT8/FT4 and RTTY on 160-6 meters with three stations. See <https://www.k9el.com/TO9W/TO9W.htm> for more information. QSL via LoTW, [ClubLog's OQRS](#) (preferred), or via [W9ILY](#).

-[425DXN # 1749 November 9, 2024] (1129-1213)

HR, HONDURAS. Gerard, F2JD will be active again as **HR5/F2JD** from Copan, Honduras from **late November to late March 2025**. He will operate CW, SSB and FT8/FT4 on the HF bands and 6 meters. Log search on <http://LesNouvellesDX.fr/voirlogs.php>. QSL via [F6AJA](#).

-[425DXN # 1749 November 9, 2024] (1122-1213)

I, ITALY. The 4U1GSC Amateur Radio Club will use special callsign **4U3ØB** to mark the 30th anniversary of the United Nations Global Service Centre in Brindisi, Italy. Look for activity from **November 15th to December 31st**. QSL via [9A2AA](#).

-[425DXN # 1747 October 26, 2024] (1115-1227)

I, ITALY. Celebrating the 100th anniversary of the start of regular radio broadcasting in Italy (October 6, 1924), ARI local branches across Italy are using special callsigns until **December 29th**. The callsigns will be in the format **II#Rxyz** (e.g. II9RCAT for ARI Catania) and **IR#Rxyz** (e.g. IR1RVDB for ARI Valbormida). In addition, special event station **I1MRTV** will be active from the RAI Radio and Television Museum in Torino. Certificates and electronic QSLs will be available for download from the HamAward platform (direct link from each special callsign's qrz.com page).

-[425DXN # 1743 September 28, 2024] (0927-1227)

JA, JAPAN. Take, JI3DST will be active again as **JS6RRR** from Miyako Island (AS-079) from **December 4th to March 31st, 2025**. Other callsigns to be used include **JI3DST/6**, **JJ5RBH/6**, **JR8YLY/6** and **JS6RRR/6**, as well as **JI3DST/p**, **JJ5RBH/p**, **JR8YLY/p** and **JS6RRR/p** on FT8. QSOs will be made available for ClubLog Matching on the IOTA website. QSLs via [ClubLog's OQRS](#).
-[425DXN # 1752 November 30, 2024] (1129-1220)

JD1/M, MINAMI TORISHIMA. Take, JG8NQJ is QRV as **JG8NQJ/JD1** from Marcus Island (OC-073) **until the beginning of March 2025**. Activity is in his spare time on the HF bands using CW and FT8. QSL via [JA8CJY](#) (direct), [JG8NQJ](#) (bureau) and LoTW.
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 43 November 14, 2024] (1115-1206)

KHØ, MARIANA IS. Look for **KHØ/JA8VE**, **KHØ/JO1ABS**, **KHØ/W1VX**, **KHØ/WB6Z**, **KHØD** and **NHØE** to be active from Saipan (OC-086) from **November 28th to December 3rd**. They will operate SSB, CW, FT8 and FT4 on 160-6 meters with two stations. QSL KHØ/JA8VE via [JA8VE](#), QSL all others via [JF1OCQ](#) and LoTW.
-[425DXN # 1751 November 23, 2024] (1122-1206)

OM, SLOVAK REPUBLIC. Special callsign **OM25ISS** marks the anniversary of the first Slovak astronaut, Ivan Bella, in space 25 years ago. QRV until the **end of September 2025** on all bands. An award is also available: <https://www.qrz.com/db/OM25ISS>. QSL via [OM8ATE](#).
-[DXNL # 2433 November 20, 2024] (1122-1213)

ON, BELGIUM. Special event station **OO8ØBB** will be QRV from **November 16th to December 15th** to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge during World War II. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#).
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 43 November 14, 2024] (1115-1213)

OX, GREENLAND. Nadia, OZ7AM and Dave, OZ5DM will be operating as **OX7AM** and **OX5DM** from Greenland (NA-018) from **November 18th to December 2nd**, including the CQ WW CW Contest (November 23rd-24th). QSL via [OZ1ACB](#).
-[DXNL # 2432 November 13, 2024] (1115-1206)

PA, NETHERLANDS. Barry, PC1K will be active as **PC24XMAS** in **December**. A certificate will be downloadable from <https://pc1k.nl/xmas> "immediately after making a QSO". QSL via [PC1K](#), LoTW, or QRZ Logbook.
-[425DXN # 1752 November 30, 2024] (1129-1103)

PA, NETHERLANDS. Celebrating Christmas and the New Year, special callsigns **PA24XMAS**, **PD24ELF** and **PI24XMAS** will be active on **December 1st-31st**, while **PD25HNY** will be QRV from **December 24th until January 31st**. See <https://www.qrz.com/db/PI24XMAS> for a certificate. QSL cards will not be issued.
-[425DXN # 1751 November 23, 2024] (1129-0103)

PJ7, SINT MAARTEN. Ed, N2HX, plans to put Sint Maarten (NA-105) on the air from **October 20th to December 27th** as **PJ7PL**, including the CQ WW DX SSB Contest (October 26th-27th), the CQ WW DX CW Contest (November 23rd-24th) and ARRL 10-Meter Contest (December 14th-15th). QSL via [N2HX](#).
-[DXNL # 2428 October 16, 2024] (1018-1227)

SM, SWEDEN. The still operational long wave transmitter at the Grimeton Radio Station, callsign SAQ, was inaugurated on December 1, 1924. To celebrate this milestone, the transmitter will be activated on VLF 17.2 kHz at 1000 UTC **on December 1st**. The Grimeton Radio Station has been inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list since 2004. As for the amateur bands, **SK6SAQ** will be QRV on CW (3517, 7017, 14017 kHz) and SSB (3755 and 7140 kHz). See <https://alexander.n.se/en/> for more information. QSL via [SK6SAQ](#) direct or via the bureau.
-[425DXN # 1752 November 30, 2024] (1129-1206)

TL, CENTRAL AFRICA. Elvira, IV3FSG will be active as **TL8ES** from Bangui, Central African Republic **until December 9th**. She will operate SSB, CW, FT8 (MSHV), FT4 and RTTY on 160-6 meters, and will enable Club Log's Live Stream. One station will be monitoring 6 meters (50313 kHz)

24/7 for possible openings. See <https://www.qrz.com/db/TL8ES> for more information. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#), LoTW, or [IK2DUW](#).

-[425DXN # 1751 November 23, 2024] (1122-1213)

V7, MARSHALL IS. Janusz, SP9FIH, will be active as **V73WE** from Majuro Atoll (OC-029), Marshall Islands from **November 29th to December 13th**. He plans to be QRV on 40, 30, 20, 12 and 10 meters. The operation will be limited to only a few bands due to the high costs of excess luggage. See <http://v7.dxpedititions.org> for more information and updates. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#), LoTW.

-[425DXN # 1749 November 9, 2024] (1129-1213)

VE, CANADA. Pierre, VE3KTB is currently active again as **VYØERC** from the Eureka Weather Station Base on Ellesmere Island (NA-008) and will remain QRV "around work schedules" **until December 5th**. QSL via [MØOXO's OQRS](#).

-[425DXN # 1751 November 23, 2024] (1122-1206)

VR, HONG KONG. Andrea, IV3SKB, continues operating as **VR2/IV3SKB** for the time being. QSL via [IV3SKB](#), LoTW.

-[DXNL # 2434 November 27, 2024] (1129-1213)

VU, INDIA. Cezar VE3LYC (VU3LPL), Sarath VU2RS, Adi VU3WEW and Anil VU3DXA will be active as **AU2K** from Kanika Island (AS-179, new one for IOTA) from **December 2nd to 7th**. "Regretfully, Frank (DL4KQ), who planned and worked on this project with us, will be unable to join the team due to family and work-related issues". The team will set up two radio stations, and attempt to operate SSB, CW and digital modes around the clock on all bands from 40 to 10 meters. Once the operation is on its way, the team will consider the possibility of setting up a third station. "We seek financial support from those who are able and willing to help us defray some of the large costs required by this project" - see <https://au2k.weebly.com> for more information. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#), or direct to [VE3LYC](#).

-[425DXN # 1745 October 12, 2024] (1129-1213)

VU, INDIA. Datta, VU2DSI is QRV as **AU2JCB** **until December 16th** to commemorate the birthdate (November 30, 1858) of Indian physicist and radio pioneer Jagadish Chandra Bose. Activity is on 80 to 6 meters using SSB, and FM on 10 and 6 meters. QSL direct to [VU2DSI](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 43 November 14, 2024] (1115-1213)

VU4, ANDAMAN & NICOBAR IS. Krish, W4VKU has been active as **VU4A** from the Andaman Islands (AS-001) and expects to remain there **until December 11th**. He operates FT8 (MSHV) and SSB on 160-6 meters. On FT8, send your grid, as Krish will enable MSHV to filter "received stations based on their distance from VU4", and "to answer the farthest DX first". See <https://www.qrz.com/db/VU4A> for more information and updates. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#) (preferred), LoTW, or direct to [W4VKU](#).

-[425DXN # 1752 November 30, 2024] (1129-1213)

XV, VIET NAM. Juris, YL2GM and Eugene, EA5EL will be active as **XV9X** from Phu Quoc Island (AS-128), Viet Nam from **November 19th to December 2nd**. They will operate CW, SSB and FT8 on 160-10 meters with two stations. See <https://www.lral.lv/xv9x/index.html> for more information and updates. Full LoTW upload six months after the end of the DXpedition. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#) (preferred), or direct to [YL2GN](#).

-[425DXN # 1750 November 16, 2024] (1115-1206)

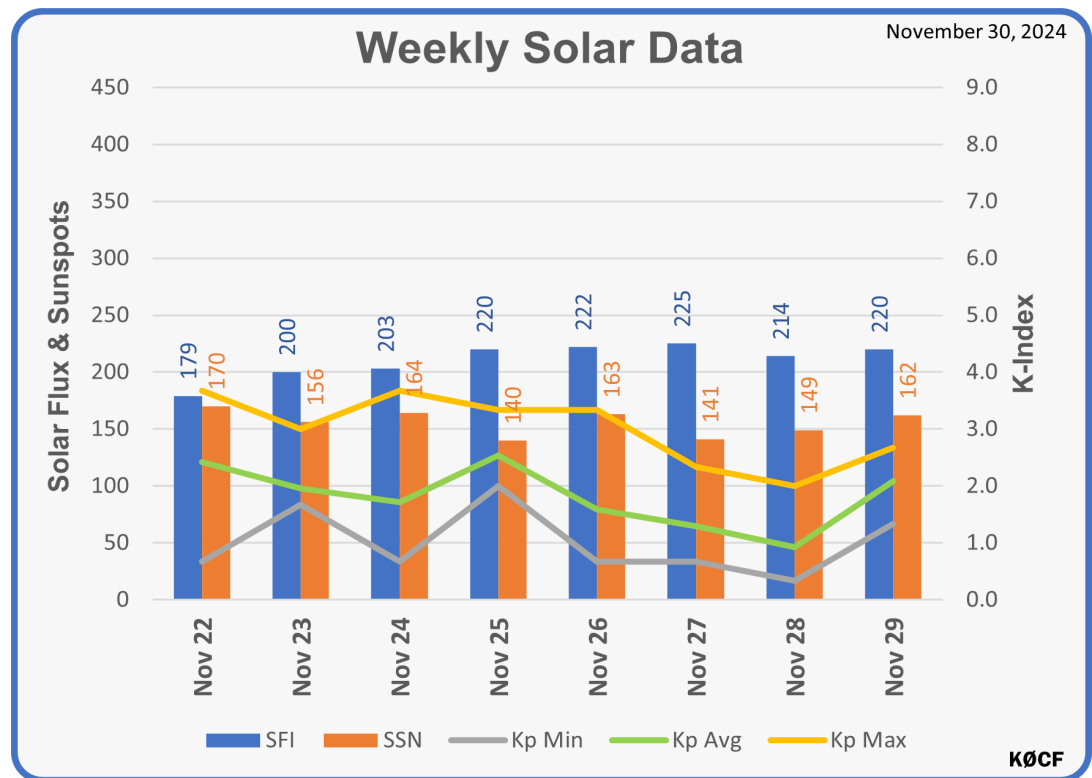
YB, INDONESIA. The ORARI branch of Tangerang Selatan (YH1RI) will operate special Callsigns **8G16T, 8G16A, 8G16N, 8G16G, 8G16S, 8G16E** and **8G16L** from **November 23rd to December 1st** to celebrate the 16th anniversary of the city of South Tangerang (part of the Greater Jakarta metropolitan area, on the island of Java). Look for activity on 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10m SSB, CW, FT8 and RTTY. See <https://award.oraritangsel.or.id> for certificates and eQSLs.

-[425DXN # 1750 November 16, 2024] (1122-1206)

ZL, NEW ZEALAND. Special event station **ZM1ØØDX** will be QRV from **September 29th to December 26th** to celebrate the very first trans-world QSO between Z4AA and G2SZ. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters using all modes. In addition, special event station **ZL4AA** will also be active for this event. QSL via operators' instructions.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 36 September 26, 2024] (0927-1227)

Propagation (Updated daily)



The Weekly Solar Data chart plots Solar Flux Index (SFI), Sunspot number (SSN) and Planetary K-Index (Kp) for the past 8 days. With 8 Planetary K-index readings each day, only the minimum, average and maximum K-index values are plotted. **Note:** You may click [here](#) or on the chart above to see the same data for the past month.

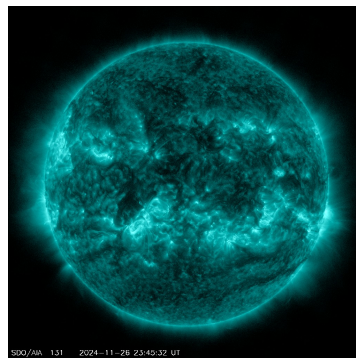
The Daily Solar Flux Index, Sunspot number, Planetary K-index, Solar Flux predictions and Solar Flare data used in this bulletin have been collected by KØCF from the U.S. Department of Commerce's NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center.

The propagation graphs above are the creations of KØCF and are unique in space weather reporting.

Please Note: The graphs are high resolution .PNG files which you may view in greater detail using your browser's "zoom" feature. Alternatively, right click on the graph and select "Open Image in New Tab" to enlarge it, or "Save Image As..." to save it to your computer for further analysis.

NASA's current view of the Sun at a wave-length of 131 Angstroms. This wavelength shows incredible solar detail.

Click [here](#) or on the image to view as a full screen 48-hour video loop. It is fascinating!



Propagation Summary

For the 8 day period from Friday, November 22nd through yesterday, November 29th.

The average solar flux was 215, up 55 points from the previous week, with a weekly high of 225 on Wednesday, November 27th, following a low of 179 on November 22nd.

The average sunspot count was 154, up 33 from last week, peaking at 170 on Friday, November 22nd followed by a weekly low of 140 on November 25th.

The Planetary K-index weekly average was 3.0 with a maximum of 3.7 on Sunday, November 24th, resulting in generally quiet geomagnetic conditions. Yesterday's K-index maximum was 2.7 with generally quiet conditions.

Solar flare activity since November 23rd has been moderate with 9 major flares, the largest of which was an M 9.4 event on Monday, November 25th.

Propagation Data

Major solar flares, Saturday, November 23rd through 1453 UTC, November 30th.

#	Date	UTC	Mag.
1	Nov 25	2054	M 1.9
2	Nov 25	1707	M 1.5
3	Nov 25	1212	M 2.0
4	Nov 25	0742	M 9.4
5	Nov 25	0453	M 1.8
6	Nov 25	0159	M 1.1
7	Nov 24	2022	M 1.1
8	Nov 23	1810	M 1.1
9	Nov 23	1607	M 1.1

(NOAA's graph of recent flare activity: [GOES-X-Ray-Flux](#))

From the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center, here are the probabilities of major solar flares and the predicted 10.7 cm Solar Flux for the next 3 days. NOAA updates this information daily.

Date	M-Flares	X-Flares	Solar Flux
Nov 30	40%	10%	215
Dec 1	40%	10%	210
Dec 2	40%	10%	210

Looking farther ahead, here is the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center forecast of 10.7 cm radio flux and maximum Planetary K-index (Kp) for the next 12 days. This data is updated by NOAA every Monday (last updated on November 25, 2024).

Date	Flux	Kp
Nov 30	205	3
Dec 1	205	2
Dec 2	205	2
Dec 3	205	2

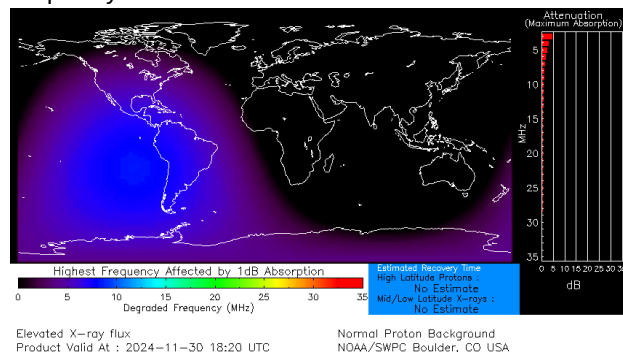
Date	Flux	Kp
Dec 4	205	2
Dec 5	205	2
Dec 6	210	4
Dec 7	215	4

Date	Flux	Kp
Dec 8	220	3
Dec 9	215	2
Dec 10	215	2
Dec 11	215	3

Global D Region Absorption

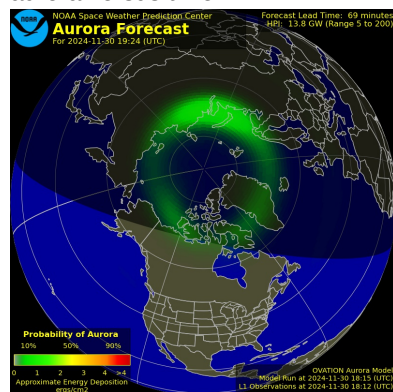
Conditions in the D-region of the ionosphere have a dramatic effect on HF communications. The D-Region Absorption map combines the effects of solar particles and photons. Yellow to red colors on the

map depict increasing signal attenuation, where the bar chart at the right displays attenuation versus frequency. Click the thumbnail below for an animated map of D-Region Absorption:



The Aurora Borealis

The aurora is not only beautiful to see but can have a profound impact on HF and VHF radio propagation. For the HF operator, auroras can result in a complete shut-down of propagation. However, on VHF, auroras present interesting DX possibilities. Beam antennas are very desirable and should be pointed north, towards the aurora. Signals are reflected by “back-scatter” and will be distorted with a rough buzz. SSB is the best voice mode to use, but copy can be difficult. CW will have a rough buzzy sound but be perfectly copyable. Click the thumbnail below for an animated map of aurora versus time:



Highs for Cycle 25

Solar Flux: 336 on August 8, 2024.

Sunspots: 382 on August 10, 2024.

Minor Geomagnetic Storm

A CME hit Earth's magnetic field on Nov. 29th (0245 UT). The initial impact was [so weak](#) it did not spark a geomagnetic storm. 24 hours later, however, a minor [G1](#)-storm occurred as Earth passed through the CME's magnetized tail. Bright auroras were confined within the Arctic Circle.

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Popular Propagation web sites

<https://prop.kc2g.com/> (Excellent Maximum Usable Frequency map)

NOAA <https://www.swpc.noaa.gov/>

<https://www.spaceweather.com/>

<https://www.solarham.com/>

<https://dx.qsl.net/propagation/>

A Propagation Tutorial

The solar X-ray flux tracks solar activity and solar flares. Solar flux, which can vary from as low as 50 to as high as 300, influences the level of ionization in the F2 region of the ionosphere, providing a very good prediction of HF DX conditions. The higher the solar flux, the better conditions will be for the higher HF frequencies and even 6 meters. However, the levels need to be maintained for some days to allow ionization in the F2 layer to build up. A solar flux of 150 results in good HF band conditions, while levels of 200 and up can provide great conditions.

Large X-ray flares on the sun can increase the ionization of the D layer of the ionosphere (a lower layer) on the sunlit side of the Earth, greatly attenuating or blocking HF radio transmissions for up to a half hour. Solar flares often produce Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs) which, if Earth directed, can lead to geomagnetic storms. Some large flares are also accompanied by strong radio bursts that may interfere with other radio frequencies and cause problems for satellite communication and radio navigation (GPS).

The Planetary K-index is a measure of the magnitude of geomagnetic storms and is an excellent indicator of disturbances in the Earth's magnetic field. A level of 1 or 2 represents quiet geomagnetic conditions; a reading of 3 or 4 may cause some propagation deterioration; 5 and 6 are minor to moderate geomagnetic storms; and 7 to 9 are strong, severe, and extreme storm conditions. Strong geomagnetic storms can trigger Auroral displays and cause HF radio blackouts. Higher geomagnetic activity also has the adverse effect of lowering maximum usable frequencies, much like lower solar flux does.

For best conditions, the solar flux should be above 150 for a few days with the K index below 2. When these conditions are met, some good DX is likely!
-[Compiled from information on NOAA.gov and other sources]

Contest Calendar

Weekly Contests

Contest	Start UTC		End	Web Site
K1USN Slow Speed Test	Monday	0000Z	0100Z	Rules
ICWC Medium Speed Test	Monday	1300Z	1400Z	Rules
	Monday	1900Z	2000Z	
	Tuesday	0300Z	0400Z	
CWops Test (CWT)	Wednesday	1300Z	1400Z	Rules
	Wednesday	1900Z	2000Z	
	Thursday	0300Z	0400Z	
	Thursday	0700Z	0800Z	
Weekly RTTY Test	Friday	0145Z	0215Z	Rules
NCCC CW Sprint (NS)	Friday	0230Z	0300Z	Rules

Note: Start Days are in UTC, e.g. Monday at 0000 UTC is Sunday at 7:00 PM in the Central Daylight Saving Time zone, or Sunday at 6:00 PM in the Central Standard Time zone.

Full Calendar

Contest	Start		End		Web Site
ARRL 160-Meter Contest	Dec 6	2200Z	Dec 8	1600Z	Rules
ARRL 10-Meter Contest	Dec 14	0000Z	Dec 15	2359Z	Rules
OK DX RTTY Contest	Dec 21	0000Z	Dec 21	2400Z	Rules
Croatian DX Contest	Dec 21	1400Z	Dec 22	1400Z	Rules
ARRL Rookie Roundup, CW	Dec 22	1800Z	Dec 22	2359Z	Rules

RAC Winter Contest	Dec 28	0000Z	Dec 28	2359Z	Rules
Stew Perry Topband Challenge	Dec 28	1500Z	Dec 29	1500Z	Rules
ARRL RTTY Roundup	Jan 4	1800Z	Jan 5	2400Z	Rules
ARRL Kids Day	Jan 4	1800Z	Jan 4	2359Z	Rules
YB DX Contest	Jan 11	0000Z	Jan 11	2359Z	Rules
North American QSO Party, CW	Jan 11	1800Z	Jan 12	0600Z	Rules
Hungarian DX Contest	Jan 18	1200Z	Jan 19	1200Z	Rules
North American QSO Party, SSB	Jan 18	1800Z	Jan 19	0600Z	Rules
ARRL January VHF Contest	Jan 18	1900Z	Jan 20	0359Z	Rules
CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW	Jan 24	2200Z	Jan 26	2159Z	Rules
BARTG RTTY Sprint	Jan 25	1200Z	Jan 26	1200Z	Rules
Winter Field Day	Jan 25	1700Z	Jan 26	1700Z	Rules
Vermont QSO Party	Feb 1	0000Z	Feb 2	2400Z	Rules
10-10 Int. Winter Contest, SSB	Feb 1	0001Z	Feb 2	2359Z	Rules
Mexico RTTY International Contest	Feb 1	1200Z	Feb 2	2359Z	Rules
Minnesota QSO Party	Feb 1	1400Z	Feb 1	2400Z	Rules
British Columbia QSO Party	Feb 1	1600Z	Feb 2	2400Z	Rules
North American Sprint, CW	Feb 2	0000Z	Feb 2	0359Z	Rules
CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest	Feb 8	0000Z	Feb 9	2400Z	Rules
ARRL School Club Roundup	Feb 10	1300Z	Feb 14	2359Z	Rules
ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW	Feb 15	0000Z	Feb 16	2400Z	Rules
CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB	Feb 21	2200Z	Feb 23	2159Z	Rules
South Carolina QSO Party	Feb 22	1500Z	Feb 23	0159Z	Rules
North American QSO Party, RTTY	Feb 22	1800Z	Feb 23	0600Z	Rules
North Carolina QSO Party	Feb 23	1500Z	Feb 24	0100Z	Rules
ARRL Inter. DX Contest, SSB	Mar 1	0000Z	Mar 2	2400Z	Rules
Open Ukraine RTTY Championship	Mar 1	1800Z	Mar 2	1359Z	Rules

-[Contest data courtesy of the [WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#)]